

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-12 are pending, with claim 5 having been withdrawn.

Various claim objections were made. Further, the claims were rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicant has carefully reviewed these claims and amended them so as to remedy the stated basis of rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 were rejected as anticipated by NORMAN et al. 6,783,342.

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In order for any of the claims to be anticipated, each recitation of the claim must be disclosed by the anticipatory reference. As NORMAN does not disclose each feature of either independent claim 1 or the dependent claims, neither independent claim 1 nor the dependent claims are anticipated.

Although NORMAN describes a pump assembly comprising a rigid housing (rotor 46) having a cylindrical axial passage (44) to coaxially accommodate a set of internal (the end of shaft 50) and external (42) ring which link the shaft to the housing, NORMAN does not anticipate any of the claims.

With reference to Figure 3, see that a set of the slot (48) in the external ring (42) allow the external ring to be pressed into the axial passage (44) by screwing the nut (36). In this arrangement, the external ring is directly pressed against the housing (46). There is, however, no disclosure of an annular space where the end of a hollow shaft is engaged, the external ring being elastically deformable so as to clamp by pinching the end of the hollow shaft. Thus, this feature of the invention is not disclosed.

Further, the internal ring offered by the Official Action is element 52. Element 52 is not an internal conical ring, i.e., neither element 52 nor adjacent shaft portion 50 is conical.

Consequently, claim 1 is not anticipated. Accordingly, both claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be patentable.

Withdrawn claim 5 is also believed to be allowable in that it depends from a generic allowable claim.

Further, the features of the invention as recited by the dependent claims are also not all believed to be disclosed by NORMAN. Accordingly, these dependent claims are believed to be patentable in their own right.

For example, see that claim 2 recites the semi-through side slots terminating alternatively in a first end and a second end of the external conical ring. NORMAN does not make this

disclosure. Indeed, in column 5, line 6, NORMAN discloses that one slot is cut all the way through and therefore not terminated at all. Therefore, it is not possible to obtain the technical characteristic recited by claim 2.

As to claims 3, 4 and 12, note that the rotating link of NORMAN (flat 52, multiple flat 100, and key 108) are arranged between the internal and the external ring and not between the internal ring and the housing as recited.

As to claim 6, NORMAN does not describe an annular space which is blind, i.e., one side is closed and the other side is opened. Accordingly, this feature is not disclosed.

As to claim 7, in view of NORMAN, the shoulder 48 of external ring 42 abuts against the housing 46 and not against the end of the shaft. Accordingly, the features of claim 7 are not disclosed.

As to claim 8, as shown on attached annotated Figure 4, please note two parts identified as Z1 and Z2. In part Z1, the first rotor 56 has an annular shoulder but the external ring does not bear against it. In the part Z2, the first rotor 56 has a shoulder in the lower part Z2' but not in the higher part Z2'' so there is no annular shoulder. Therefore, the features of claim 8 are not satisfied.

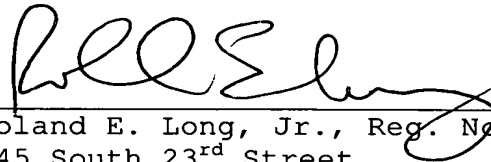
For claims 9 and 11, note that the NORMAN internal ring is not conical. Accordingly, for each of the above reasons, the presently pending claims are believed patentable over the prior

art. In view of this, reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- an annotated Figure 4 of NORMAN et al. 6,783,342